

Arctic Nights.

Viewed solely as a matter of optics, the arctic night is as dark as any night. Explorers in high latitudes say, however, that there are many alterations of the obscurity. The stars flash keenly, the moon comes along in a regular succession of phases, the snow surface reflects the gloom under conditions of the utmost absence of light, and the aurora borealis in the finest kind of illuminant. Explorers all agree that their men pass the winter night without much difficulty if only there are means of amusement.

Nicaraguan Burial Custom.

Among the Indians of eastern Nicaragua when a person dies the body is buried at once and a little house is built over the grave in which the soul can live for the time being. A field of sweet manioc is planted. In about eight months' time the roots are ready for use, so a general invitation to a great San or Sixero dance is sent out. A cotton string is stretched over the tree tops from the spirit house over the grave to the dancing place, where the end of it hangs down into a great bowl of misale.

United States' Right in Panama.

The United States did not acquire by the Isthmian canal convention of November 18, 1903, any title to territory in the republic of Panama, but merely a perpetual right of occupation, use and control of and over a zone of land ten miles in width. For this privilege it paid to the republic of Panama the sum of \$10,000,000 and undertook to pay the sum of \$250,000 annually so long as such occupancy continued, such payments beginning on February 28, 1913.

First Great Lithuanian Poet.

Christian Donelaitis was the first major poet among the Lithuanians. "Seasons of the Year," written in hexameter, is the most highly prized of all his works. In 1905 the Russian Imperial academy published his complete works at its own expense. During the present war George Baltrušaitis, the Lithuanian poet, and Vlacheslav Ivanov, the Russian poet, collaborated in bringing out a Russian translation, also a hexameter, of "The Joys of Spring."

Prosperous in Flax and Linen.

Linen bedding is a great luxury to the American housewife, who tries to be contented with cotton sheets embroidered and trimmed, and saves her linen pieces for company. But in Lithuania, where flax is a flourishing product and factories are not plentiful, every housewife has her chests full of linen bedding, beautiful, fine, hand-made material that would do for any American beds.

Danger in Water Drinking.

Dr. James H. Housh of the University of Chicago denounces coffee as a poison; tea as a shatterer of the nerves and water as responsible for increased blood pressure. He says too much water is exceedingly dangerous to persons suffering from hardened arteries, which means to most persons who have passed fifty.

Must Rein Ourselves.

"He died in harness, poor chap." "Yes, and, by the way, did you ever notice how much like a harness life is? There are traces of care, lines of trouble, bits of good fortune and breaches of faith. Also tongues to be bridled, passions curbed and everybody has to tug to pull through."

Rather Spoiled the Effect.

There was company for breakfast and sister, wishing to look her best, donned a little lace breakfast cap and pretty little negligee. As she appeared in the doorway of the dining room little brother cried, "O-a-h look! She is all decorated up!"

As to Conforming to Fashion.

Avoid singularity. There may often be less vanity in following the new modes than in adhering to the old ones. It is true that the foolish invent them, but the wise may conform to, instead of contradicting them.—Joubert.

Well Named.

"The convicts who escaped went through this window, where the bars are filed." "Then if the jail had only been the post office, that would have been the general delivery window."

Teacher's Wise Words.

Put away all sarcasm from your speech. Never complain. Do not prophesy evil. Have a good word for every one or else keep silent.—Henry Ward Beecher.

"Stickingness."

"A rolling stone gathers no moss," but lots of moss gathers on the man that does not find his place and stick like a dog to the post.

The Other Side.

"I'll have to hand it to your wife for that beautiful basket she's bought." "That's all right for you to hand it to her, but I've got to foot the bill."

Daily Thought.

We do that to our real our calmer moments would be afraid to answer.—Scott.

Runes.

"Runes" were the letters of the alphabet used by the old Teutonic tribes. The word means hidden force. The earliest runes were merely fanciful signs supposed to possess mysterious power. The letters were even considered magical, and were cast into the air, written separately upon chips, to fall as fate determined, on a cloth and to be read by the interpreter. The association of the rune letters with heathen superstitions caused the first Christian teachers to discourage their use.

A Gallop in the Country.

What pleasure is keener than that afforded by an early morning gallop in the country? Choose a bright, fresh May day, a little after sunrise, when dew and flowers and bird-song and wind-rustle and all the sweets and perfumes are at their best; mount and away. Your good horse will know what you are going to do, and will show the liveliest interest, for he likes these early flights as well as you do. . . . He hears the bird-song, too.—Maurice Thompson.

Law of Falling Bodies.

Since a body falls to the ground in consequence of the earth's attraction on each of its molecules, it follows that, everything else being the same, all bodies, great and small, light and heavy, ought to fall with equal rapidity. The fact that a stone falls more rapidly than a feather is due solely to the unequal resistance opposed by the air to the descent of these bodies. In a vacuum all bodies fall with equal rapidity.

Charcoal Invaluable.

All kinds of glass vessels and other utensils may be purified from long-retained smells of every kind in the easiest and most perfect manner by rinsing them out with charcoal powder. Rubbing the teeth and washing out the mouth with fine charcoal powder will render the teeth beautifully white and the breath perfectly sweet. Putrid water is immediately deprived of its bad smell by charcoal.

Be Agreeable.

The true art of being agreeable is to appear well pleased with all the company, and rather to seem well entertained with them than to bring entertainment to them. A man thus disposed may not have much learning, nor any wit; but if he has common sense, and something friendly in his behavior, it conciliates men's minds more than the brightest parts without the disposition.—Addison.

Renews Carbon Paper.

An additional period of usefulness may be secured from a partially used sheet of carbon or transfer paper by simply holding it over an open flame such as a lamp, candle or match, with the carbon side down. The wax substances of the unused parts will melt and run into the thinner sections of the parts which are worn out.

Seven Days King.

The "seven days king" was Masaniello (Thomas Aniello), born in 1622. He headed a revolt against the Duke of Arcos, at Naples, July 7, 1647, forced him to abolish the tax on provisions, and for seven days was master of Naples. He was most arrogant and bloodthirsty and was assassinated July 16.

Call for Reform.

When pinching the dollar leaves a deep mark on the heart of its owner, doesn't it seem as if he would let up? But few of us have anything to brag of in that line. Our souls are scarred from end to end with the marks of our penuriousness. Shame on us! Let's quit it!—Exchange.

Dainty Early Flowers.

There is to me a daintiness about early flowers that touches me like poetry. They blow out with such a simple loveliness among the common herbs of pastures, and breathe their lives so unobtrusively, like hearts whose beatings are too gentle for the world.—Willis.

A Bustling Burg.

"By George!" triumphantly ejaculated a prominent resident of that on-rushing hamlet, "Pruntytown is getting to be more and more metropolitan right along. Why, dog-take-it, the all night restaurant stays open till half-past ten or eleven every night of the world, except Sundays!"—Judge.

Didn't Expect Too Much.

The Sultan—"I hope, sir, that you will consider me in the nature of an investment, even if I may not pay regular dividends." The Girl's Father—"My dear boy, don't talk of dividends. I shall be glad if you don't levy regular assessments on me."—Life.

Life a Constant Battle.

The life of each of us is full of ancient evil, derived from the brutes, which is ever at war with the better and higher qualities—the true human part of our minds.—Nathaniel S. Huxley.

Optimistic Thought.

The tale of calumny which has no foundation in truth cannot long retain its power to injure.

Powerful Explosive.

A new and very powerful explosive, which may be used in mining and for other purposes, is lead azide, a salt of hydrometric acid. This acid forms a great number of salts, as mercury azide, silver azide and sodium azide. Large crystals of lead azide and mercury azide have been found to be very sensitive to mechanical shocks, the sensitivity increasing with the size of the crystals. Even the breaking of a single large crystal is said to bring about explosion.

Successful.

A young Welshman applied to the head of a big firm in London for a job. "Where do you come from?" he was asked. "From Llanpumpant." "What may that name mean?" "It means the place of the five saints," was the ready answer. "Are there five saints there still?" "There are only four since I left," said the young Welshman. As the head of the firm came from the same neighborhood the young man got the situation.

The End of a Perfect Day.

Do not let the man who says, "This is the year when I am going to show you how to farm it," think that he will have all clear sailing. He will meet wildcats and bears at every turn, and he may consider himself lucky if he gets off with a whole hide. The big thing is to stand on the far end of the field when the harvest is gathered in and be able to say, "I did what I said I would!"

His Explanation.

Vincent was afraid of chickens, and one day as he was going to the neighbor's he hesitated before a path where a few chickens were picking away at the clinders. After standing there a few moments waiting for them to get away he returned, saying: "There was a waster on the sidewalk and he was afraid of me, so I com'd back."

Aptitude Counts.

Experienced men are not always the ones with executive ability; they often get into a rut. It is the man with aptitude that counts, and if one has that quality he can quite readily get experience, but he must have the chance to show it, and if he doesn't get the opportunity then business houses are the losers.

The Merit of a Book.

The crowning merit of a book must always be its practical usefulness. If it makes you more cheerful, or more amiable, or more pitiful, or more appreciative of what is beautiful, or more resolute to follow what is good and noble, then the highest purpose of a book is gained.—David Pryde.

And a Fight Started.

Mrs. Styles—"This paper says that in front of a large London building there was recently found a pigeon's nest made of hairpins. Where do you suppose the pigeons found the hairpins?" Mr. Styles—"Oh, I suppose a lot of women in the vicinity couldn't keep their mouths shut."

Learning to Be Miserable.

Blessings on the little folks that have not yet learned to be miserable! Smiles and bright faces are their natural meat and drink. We may all stay just that way if we will. How? By putting the very best there is in us into doing things for other folks.—Exchange.

Kindness Appreciated.

What a comfort a dull but kindly person is, to be sure, at times! A ground-glass shade over a gas lamp does not bring more solace to our dazzled eyes than such a one to our minds.—Holmes.

Ship Tonnage.

Tonnage is the internal cubic capacity of a vessel expressed in tons, now reckoned at 100 cubic feet each; of the freight-carrying capacity of a vessel, as estimated in tons of 40 cubic feet each.

Man, Proud Man!

Nothing shows the greed, egotism and stupidity of man more than war, for man kills not only his own species as animals rarely do, but all other species.—Exchange.

Onions for Insomnia.

If troubled with insomnia try eating raw onions at the last meal in the day. Give this a thorough trial, not once only, but for a week or two.

Wonderful Grand Canyon.

The grand canyon of the Colorado river in northern Arizona is 219 miles long, 12 to 15 miles wide and more than a mile deep.

Daily Thought.

Zeal is very blind, or badly regulated, when it encroaches upon the rights of others.—Pascual Quenod.

Intelligence.

Some never fails to give them that have it words enough to make them understood.—William Penn.

Uncle Eben.

"Hope fish do best," said Uncle Eben, "but don't be greedy as 'try to gub it all fish yobers!'"

Transmigration of Souls.

A fresh young man was pressing an old gentleman, who evidently felt bored, to give him an illustration of the transmigration of souls, showing how a person's identity might be maintained. At last the old gentleman replied: "Supposing you should die, your soul might appear in a canary bird; when the canary bird died it might appear in a lion or a tiger; again, it might appear in a jackass—and I might stroke its ears and say, 'My dear fellow, you have not changed a bit!'"—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

Senile Marriages.

Some bygone lawmakers would have been in sympathy with the Brooklyn millionaire who maintains that at 80 he was too old to be legally married. In Rome, under the Emperor Augustus, a law was passed forbidding men to marry when they were over 60, and women when they were over 50. Peter the Great, also disapproved of senile marriage, and enacted that no marriage age contract should hold good if either of the contracting parties was over 80 at the time it was entered upon.

The Harpsichord.

This was the instrument out of which our modern piano grew. It was more like a grand than an upright piano and sometimes had two rows of keys, but it was very inferior in power and tone to the modern instrument. It had no pedals, and the wires were not struck by hammers, but were plucked by quills. The compass of the instrument was about four octaves which was gradually increased as it was improved upon.

English May Dances.

The love of the maypole still lingers in the affections of the children of England, and in villages many of the old May dances have been revived, and the gray playgrounds of the cities' schools oftentimes glow with unworldly brightness on May morning, as the present-day girls with spring frocks and beribboned maypoles still sing the songs and dance the steps which made merry the day through the long centuries.

First Daily Paper.

"March 11th was the anniversary of the birth of the first daily paper in England, to wit, the Daily Courant," says the London Morning Post. "It was issued in the year 1702, by 'E. Mallet, against the 'Ditch in Fleet Street', and it was cynically said of the worthy pioneer that he was the earliest journalist to show any jealousy for an accurate statement of fact."

Advice From One Who Knew.

The puppy had been punished and was sulking in a corner. To him came the small daughter of the house, to administer, not comfort, but advice. "You may just as well be good first as last, Buddy," she admonished. "Everybody that belongs to mother has got to mind. I've been through it all—and I know."

Roads Must Be Kept in Repair.

Investment of money in new roads does not become real economy until provision is made for keeping these new roads in condition after they are built. If a new road is built and then allowed to fall into disrepair, much of the original investment is simply wasted.

Learning to Be Miserable.

Blessings on the little folks that have not yet learned to be miserable! Smiles and bright faces are their natural meat and drink. We may all stay just that way if we will. How? By putting the very best there is in us into doing things for other folks.

Mercenary Love.

Two little cousins had quarreled, and the mother of one of them tried to make peace. "Amy," she said, "why did you tell Bobbie you wouldn't be his little sweetheart?" "'Cos he didn't ask me," replied Amy indignantly, "till he knowed I had a new dime!"

Looking Ahead.

Charles, upon the arrival of a small brother, was asked if he was not glad that it was a boy so he could play with him. "Humph," came the answer, "by the time he is big enough to play I'll be grooved up and married."

Where Papa Smoked.

Father—"I never smoked when I was your age. Will you be able to tell that to your son when you are my age?" Willie—"Not with such a straight face as you do, father. You heat me there."

Musings of Martha.

Three wonderful business women we hear so much about may be all right, but I'd like to see one of 'em tackle the job of getting up in the mornin' an' gettin' breakfast for ten before daylight.

Power Pays.

It is said that a sewing machine with an individual motor averages 1,600 stitches a minute, while the old-fashioned machine accomplishes only 300 or 400 stitches a minute at most.

Good Thing to Remember.

For grit in the eye apply a drop or two of castor oil; it relieves the irritation.

Key a Prolific Writer.

Francis Scott Key, the author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," wrote quite a number of poems, which were collected and published in book form in 1867. He was the author of several sacred hymns, including the national Thanksgiving hymn, beginning "Before the Lord we bow." This was written for the Fourth of July, 1832. He also wrote the hymn beginning, "Lord, with glowing heart I'll praise thee," and "When troubles, wars on wave, assailed," and others. He died in 1843, while United States district attorney at Washington.

Banks and Banking.

The national banking law was passed in the United States February 20, 1863. The first bank authorized to do business was the First National bank of Philadelphia; but the oldest one was the Bank of North America, which was chartered by the state of Pennsylvania in 1782, and became a national bank December 8, 1864. In view of its long history and pioneer services to the government, it was permitted to organize as a national bank under its old name of "Bank of North America," without the usual prefix of "national."

Electrical Currents.

Different methods are in use for keeping the supply of electricity steady in spite of the varying demands made on it. In some systems of distribution, instead of the two main conductors being one positive and the other negative, each is positive and negative alternately, the reversals taking place some hundreds of times a second. The current is then said to be alternating. When such reversals do not take place, the currents are said to be direct.

How to Get Cook.

The lady of the house lacked a cook, and said she would have a look at the advertisements. Her husband noticed that she was searching through the notices of deaths. "I thought you were going to search the 'want places,'" he said. "You are looking at the death columns." "I know," she replied, "I wish to see what cooks have lost their employers."—London Telegraph.

A Reminder.

Let us all each day, in every and all of our actions and endeavors, practice truth and altruism, the eternal enemies of hypocrisy and selfishness, for the inevitable result of a violation of these principles are long in these enlightened times will bring us misery and proclaim to us the futility of our methods in an endeavor toward a higher civilization.

Compressed Atmosphere.

If the atmosphere of the earth were compressed to the density of water, it would occupy a space of 1,253,000 cubic miles. The idea may be expressed more vividly when it is said that the whole gaseous envelope of the earth, if compressed to this degree, would fill a tank 100 miles high, 100 miles wide and 100 miles long.

The Other Man.

An old Irish coachman had just finished a wet and cold drive. "Now, Pat," said the young lady he had driven, "drink this glass of toddy, and you'll feel like another man." Later on, when preparing to start on the return journey, Pat said, "Sure, and the other man would like a drop of something hot!"

Call for Reformation.

When pinching the dollar leaves a deep mark on the heart of its owner, doesn't it seem as if he would let up? But few of us have anything to brag of in that line. Our souls are scarred from end to end with the marks of our penuriousness. Shame on us! Let's quit it!—Exchange.

The Kiss a Religious Observance.

Judas betrayed the Messiah with a kiss. "Greet ye one another with a holy kiss," wrote Paul to the Corinthians, and even to this day some of the Protestants still retain the kiss as part of the service of the Lord's Supper.

Few Have College Education.

Just two-thirds of the presidents of the United States have been college men. Though more numerous than ever before, college graduates even now constitute less than 1 per cent of the population.

Truth Everlasting.

The truth was never born, and it will never die. It is as old as the universe, and while the universe endures the fact that love is life and hate is death will endure along with it.

Does This Hit You?

"Some men," said Uncle Eben, "goes fishin' not so much for de sake of de fish as for de chance to loaf without bein' noticed."

Great Power of Hope.

Free labor has the inspiration of hope; pure slavery has no hope. The power of hope upon human exertion and happiness is wonderful.

Optimistic Thought.

Talkative persons are like barrels; the less there is in them the more noise they make.

Work With Others.

No matter how much enthusiasm, how much ardor, how much brilliancy we may have, if it is misdirected it cannot help, but it must hinder the work of the world. Learn to work with people, not against them. Stand always for what is right and against that which is wrong, but do not throw your energy into constant striving against theories and opinions, and even actions of others. Let your ardor and enthusiasm and your love of life, be constructive. Strive to build up and not to tear down, for that is the way to help on in the scheme of living.

Trinity Church Yard.

According to the New York city records, Trinity church obtained the site by a grant from the king of England. It was known as the king's domain. Later the largest tract of land owned by the Trinity parish, known as the queen's lands, came into the hands of that corporation by gift. Therefore we have no original owners to trace antedating the English, save only the Dutch government and the Indians from whom the Dutch bought Manhattan Island.

Tattoo Marks.

It is usually impossible to remove such marks without leaving a permanent scar. One method is to tattoo the skin with a concentrated solution of tannin, following the original design. Then apply a crayon of silver nitrate until the skin turns black. Wipe off the excess of moisture and allow the caustic to eat into the skin. There will be pain and reddish scars will form, which may gradually disappear.

Medicinal Properties of Beech Tree.

The beech, which is found in the temperate zone in Europe, America and Asia, is valuable in medicine for the creosote distilled from its tar. Creosote, creosote carbonate and gallic acid are medicines used to supplement the hygienic measures which have done so much to reduce the death rate in sufferers from pulmonary tuberculosis.

As He Saw It.

During a discourse on individuality as expressed in the countenance, a schoolmaster held up a portrait of Charles Dickens. "Here," said he, "is the face of a celebrated author and man of genius. Do you see anything particularly noticeable about the features?" "Yes," replied one of the brightest scholars, "a lot of whiskers!"

Animal Disease Costly.

Animal disease, such as hog cholera, the foot-and-mouth disease, etc., are costing the farmers and the general public an enormous sum each year, although agricultural leaders have been waging an effective fight upon such epidemics. Ultimately the farmers will be enjoying the use of about \$200,000,000 which they now lose each year through these causes.

At the Zoo.

Bobby, aged seven, was making his first visit to the zoo. He looked around at the various animals, and coming to a cage marked "Female," he rushed up to his mother in great excitement. "Oh, mother," he said, "I've always wanted to see a 'Female' and here he is!"—Cartoons Magazine.

When Beards Flourished.

The reign of Henry IV of France was the golden age of beards, for at that time as much attention was paid to them as to the dressing of the hair of both sexes. Louis VIII, then a child, came to the throne, and the beard had to go in honor of the hairless chin of the new monarch.

He Was Supplied.

Billy had just been going to school a short time, but considered himself wise in the ways of schoolboys. One day while playing with his younger brother he said, "Jean, when you start to school you want to pick you out a girl. I've got me one."

Achieving Success.

Success in life depends more than anything else on "animated moderation,"—on a certain combination of energy of mind and balance of mind, hard to attain and harder to keep.—Walter Bagehot.

The Voice of Envy.

John, upon being taken in to see his brand-new brother, gazed long and earnestly upon him and said: "Get, but you are a lucky kid! You won't have to wash your own ears for years and years."

From the Beginning.

Men who expect women to be punctual in keeping their appointments fail to remember that Eve did not arrive until Adam had been in the garden quite a while.—Boston Transcript.

Uncle Eben.

"If every small boy could carry out his mother's expectations for his future," said Uncle Eben, "d'ard be to be several million presidents of de United States all to once."

Fed Up.

The man who never does anything he doesn't like rarely likes anything he does.—Life.